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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/750,911	01/05/2004	Tomohiko Koto	108075-00121	1994
4372	7590	03/23/2005	EXAMINER	
ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN 1050 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 400 WASHINGTON, DC 20036				NGUYEN, LONG T
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2816		

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/750,911	KOTO, TOMOHIKO
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Long Nguyen	2816

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 January 2004.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 5 and 6 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 1-4 and 7-28 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 05 January 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/05/04.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because “Prior Art” in Figures 1 and 3 should be changed to --Prior Art--. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1-28 are objected to because of the following informalities:
In claim 1, line 18, after “and”, it is suggested to insert --wherein the level shift circuit further includes-- (i.e., the level shifter also includes a level shift circuit. For example, the combination of transistors 26 and 27 in Figure 9 forms a level shifter circuit (note the transistor 27 is the first circuit in the claim), see lines 11-13 on page 16 of the instant specification).

Claims 2-7 are objected to because they include the informality of claim 1.

Also in claim 7, line 2, --further-- should be inserted before "includes".

In claim 8, line 29, after "and", it is suggested to insert --wherein the level shift circuit further includes-- (i.e., the level shifter also includes a level shift circuit. For example, the combination of transistors 26 and 27 in Figure 9 forms a level shifter circuit (note the transistor 27 is the first circuit in the claim), see lines 11-13 on page 16 of the instant specification).

In claim 8, line 32, "block signal" should be changed to --block input signal--.

Claims 9-28 are objected to because they include the informalities of claim 8.

In claim 13, line 5-6, it is suggest to change "the voltage capacities" to --the withstand voltage--.

In claim 22, line 1, "circuit includes" should be changed to --circuit further includes--.

In claim 22, line 8, "and has" should be changed to --wherein the current source of the first circuit comprises--.

In claim 22, line 9, "same that" should be changed to --same as that--.

In claim 22, line 11, "with voltage" should be changed to --with a voltage--.

Claim 26, line 5, "in" should be changed to --of--.

Claim 26, line 6, "transistor including" should be changed to --transistor of the third current control circuit including--.

Appropriate correction is required

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With respect to claim 5, the recitation “wherein the second circuit includes a constantly activated transistor” is misdescriptive since it is inconsistent with what is disclosed and shown. Note that Figure 14 clearly shows the second circuit (transistors 62a-62b) is controlled by current control signal S1, so the second circuit is turned on/off depending the control signal S1 which is switched between the standby state and the activated state. Clarification and/or appropriate correction is requested.

With respect to claim 6, the recitation “wherein the second circuit includes a transistor having a gate connected to the first power supply is misdescriptive”. Note that Figure 14 shows the second circuit (transistors 62a-62b) is controlled by the signal S1 (not by the first power supply). Clarification and/or appropriate correction is requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-4 and 7-28 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the informalities set forth in this Office action.

6. Claims 5 and 6 depend on allowable claim 1, so claims 5 and 6 would be allowed if amended to overcome the indefiniteness set forth above.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

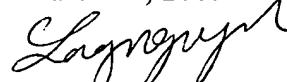
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8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directly to Examiner Long Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1753. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Callahan, can be reached at (571) 272-1740. The fax number for this group is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

March 18, 2005


LONG NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER